

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 SIL-01 LAB-06 CU-04 OPR-02

SY-10 EB-11 AGR-20 DRC-01 /189 W

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R 111033Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1325

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USUN NEW YORK 313

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1510

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: SOMALI REACTION TO MIDDLE EAST WAR

REF: MOGADISCIO 1488

SUMMARY: GSDR CONTINUES TO GIVE STRONG VERBAL SUPPORT TO ARAB CAUSE, BUT HAS TAKEN ONLY VERY RESTRAINED ACTIONS. VERY LITTLE DIRECT ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING APPEARS IN GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS OR IN POPULAR COMMENTS. END SUMMARY

1. A VERY ORDERLY PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT OF THE ARAB CAUSE IN THE ME WAR WAS ARRANGED BY THE GSDR IN DOWNTOWN MOGADISCIO ON OCTOBER 10, COMMENCING 0630 IN THE MORNING. FOUR OR FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE ASSUMBLD, INCLUDING YOUTH GROUPS WITH BANNERS FROM ALL OVER TOWN, AND GOVERNMENT WORKERS INSTRUCTED TO ATTEND BEFORE REPORTING FOR WORK. CROWD WAS SIMILAR IN SIZE TO THOSE ASSEMBLED EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS ON DOMESTIC MATTERS OF MODERATE IMPORTANCE. PRESIDENT SIAD ADDRESSED THE MEETING FOR ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES AROUND 0800. HE STRONGLY
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SUPPORTED THE ARAB CAUSE IN GENERAL TERMS, WITH VARIOUS REFER-

ENCES TO IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM. THE CROWD THEN DISPERSED CALMLY, AND THE CITY HAS BEEN QUIET SINCE.

2. THE GSDR HAS ANNOUNCED IT IS SENDING LIVESTOCK FOR FOOD TO EGYPT AND SYRIA, AMOUNT AND TRANSPORT UNSPECIFIED. SOMALIS WHO WISH TO CONTRIBUTE ANIMALS WERE INSTRUCTED TO GIVE THEM TO LOCAL OFFICIALS. GSDR ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SOMALIS WHO WANTED TO VOLUNTEER FOR FIGHTING SHOULD REGISTER THEIR NAMES AT LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICES. NO FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED, AND THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION OR REFERENCE TO SOMALI ARMY PARTICIPATION OF ANY SORT.

3. OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY OCTOBER 10 REPORTED MESSAGES BY PRESIDENT SIAD TO OAU CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY GENERAL, AND TO CHAIRMAN OF NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, URGING SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE, IN UNITED NATIONS AND ELSEWHERE.

4. WHILE REPORTED TEXTS OF SIAD MESSAGES (PARA 3) DO NOT REFER TO "IMPERIALISM", CONTROLLED PRESS HAS NUMEROUS ARTICLES SETTING FORTH THEORY OF ISRAEL AS AGENT OF IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM. SUCH ARTICLES, HOWEVER, DO NOT MENTION U.S. BY NAME. EMBASSY LOCALS SAY ANTI-U.S. FEELING AMONG PEOPLE IS MUCH LESS THAN DURING 1967 WAR.

5. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF UNDOUBTED FUNDAMENTAL SYMPATHY OF MOSLEM SOMALIS FOR ARAB CAUSE, AND CONSIDERING SOMALIA'S CLOSE DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH ARAB WORLD, GSDR STRONG WORDS AND VERY LIMITED ACTIONS UP TO NOW SEEM TO BE ABOUT THE MINIMUM NEEDED FOR DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY REQUIREMENTS. THERE IS NO INDICATION TO DATE OF UNTOWARD EMOTIONALISM, OR THAT GSDR IS SEEKING TO CREATE ANY UNNECESSARY EXCITEMENT OR ACTIVITY. ANTI-ETHIOPIA PUBLIC STATEMENTS, WHICH HAVE GIVEN WAY TO MIDDLE EAST NEWS AND COMMENT, WILL PROBABLY SOON REAPPEAR WITH EMPHASIS ON IEG-ISRAEL LINKS.

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